

Article Alert

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Information Resource Center

Public Affairs Section
U.S. Embassy Jakarta
Jl. Medan Merdeka Selatan 4-5,
Jakarta 10110
Phone: (021) 3508467, Fax: (021) 3508466,
e-mail: IRCAAlert@state.gov
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The books, articles, and web sites described in the Article Alert present a diversity of views in order to keep our IRC users abreast of current issues and concerns in the United States. These items represent the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official U.S. Government policy.

Online Resources On Trade and Protectionism

CATO Institute, Center for Trade Policy Studies

<http://www.freetrade.org/index.php>

The mission of the Cato Institute Center for Trade Policy Studies is to increase public understanding of the benefits of free trade and the costs of protectionism.

Economic Strategy Institute (ESI)

<http://www.econstrat.org/>

Dedicated to assuring that globalization works with market forces to achieve maximum benefits rather than distorting markets and imposing costs.

Globalisation Institute

<http://www.globalisationinstitute.org/index.php>

A think tank founded in 2005 with the aim of examining how globalization can be harnessed to work for the world's poorest.

The Library of Economics and Liberty

<http://www.econlib.org/index.html>

Dedicated to advancing the study of economics, markets, and liberty. It offers resources for students, teachers, researchers, and aficionados of economic thought.

National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC)

<http://www.nftc.org/>

A U.S. business organization that advocates the international and public policy priorities of its members on international trade, investment, tax, and export finance.

Peterson Institute for International Economics

<http://www.iie.com/research/researcharea.cfm?ResearchTopicID=5>

The Peterson Institute, formerly the Institute for International Economics, is devoted to the study of international economic policy. Since 1981 the institute has provided timely, objective

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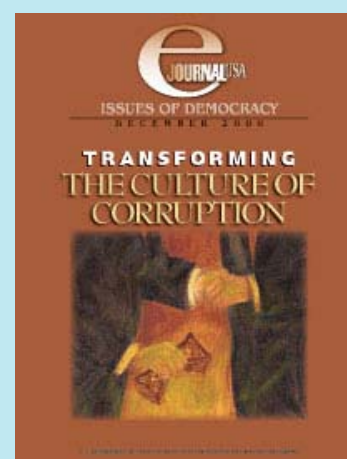
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Free New Online Publications



Transforming the Culture of Corruption

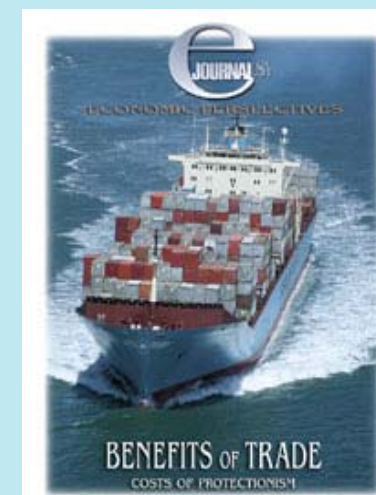
In recent years, through a series of international agreements, a global framework for combating corruption has begun to emerge. Individual countries can now make their anticorruption efforts more effective by vigorously implementing anticorruption commitments and relying on international cooperation. This issue of eJournal USA highlights the important roles that the public sector, private sector, and non-governmental organizations play in eradicating corruption worldwide.

To download the full text of the report, please visit:
<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/1206/ijde/ijde1206.htm>

Benefits of Trade Costs of Protectionism

Removing trade barriers through World Trade Organization and other negotiations promises to lift millions of people around the world out of poverty. Maintaining protectionist practices hurts millions, especially in the developing world, by preventing sustained economic expansion. While developed countries need to drop their own protectionist practices, developing countries stand to gain the most benefits by removing their protectionist barriers to imports from each other. Protectionism bolsters the politically designated few while harming the many; the problem and the solution are political. This issue of eJournal USA has articles from authors inside and outside the U.S. government describing the benefits of trade and the costs of protectionism.

To download the full text of the report, please visit:
<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/ites/0107/ijee/ijee0107.htm>



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DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

1. Ansolabehere, Stephen et al. TELEVISION AND THE INCUMBENCY ADVANTAGE IN U.S. ELECTIONS (Legislative Studies Quarterly, vol. 31, no. 4, November 2006, pp.469-90)

The incumbency advantage is a well-known phenomenon in the United States in all levels of politics. The advantage grew from one to two percentage points in the 1940s to the eight to ten percentage points today. There are many theories as to the reasons for this. The authors studied the relationship between television and electoral competition; after reviewing the data from gubernatorial and Senate elections from the 1940s to the 1990s, the authors conclude that "television has a small, directionally indeterminate, and statistically insignificant effect on the incumbency advantage."

2. Horowitz, Donald L. CONSTITUTIONAL COURTS: A PRIMER FOR DECISION MAKERS (Journal of Democracy, vol. 17, no. 4, October 2006, pp. 125-137)

When newly emerging democracies are drafting constitutions, drafters are adding judicial review of government action as a necessary limitation on the power of the executive branch. Some countries allow the Supreme Court to declare legislation or executive actions as unconstitutional, while other countries have created constitutional courts to hear these cases. Horowitz's article describes the strengths and pitfalls of each approach. He contends that careful constitution drafting is necessary to limit the powers of the executive by allowing the judicial branch the opportunity of judicial review.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

3. Budima, Gjenezha CAN CORRUPTION AND ECONOMIC CRIME BE CONTROLLED IN DEVELOPING ECONOMIES, AND IF SO, IS THE COST WORTH IT? (Journal of Financial Crime, vol. 13, no. 4, 2006, pp. 408-419)

Budima, a professor of philosophy at the University of Pristina, says the definitions of economic crime and corruption vary across societies, and developing countries are more prone to these activities than the developed world. Regardless, she notes, they rank amongst the most costly of all criminal activities, and have dire consequences. Corruption is a crime without borders, not a localized crime, she notes. So, efforts to control crimes of corruption need to come from multiple fronts. Effective domestic control requires state mechanisms, along with the support of society and the media, she explains. Internationally, Budima continues, successful control requires absolute cooperation between governments to enforce anti-corruption regulations. Global action in fighting economic crimes is vital to developing countries, she writes, because development needs a business environment with fair and manageable risk.

4. Cuervo-Cazurra, Alvaro WHO CARES ABOUT CORRUPTION? (Journal of International Business Studies, no. 37, 2006, pp. 807-822)

Cuervo-Cazurra, a professor of international business at the University of South Carolina, analyzes the relationship between corruption and foreign direct investment (FDI). Many empirical studies support the premise that corruption in a host country has a negative relationship with FDI, he writes. However, he adds, some scholars argue that corruption can have a positive impact on investment by facilitating transactions in countries with excessive regulation. His analysis compared countries that had signed the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials versus those countries that did not sign it. Countries that signed the OECD Convention attracted more FDI from other countries with strong anti-corruption laws, he says. And, the composition of FDI from non-signers of the OECD Convention primarily came from countries with weaker anti-corruption regulation.

GLOBAL ISSUE

5. Garfield, Bob YOUTUBE VS. BOOB TUBE (Wired, December 2006, pp. 222//266)

If one thought that YouTube.com was a lot of video doodling from online extroverts who want to put themselves in front of a camcorder, then think again, writes Garfield. Rather, the online video-sharing site represents the first ripples of a media tsunami that will crush the business model that sustains television as a profit-making enterprise. The fast-growing popularity of YouTube means that the 21st century audience has lost interest in the type of programming traditionally produced by the big U.S. television networks, the article argues.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

6. Esposito, John; Mogahed, Dalia WHAT MAKES A MUSLIM RADICAL? (Foreign Policy, Web Exclusive, Posted November, 2006)

Esposito, professor of religion and international affairs at Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service, and Mogahed, executive director for Muslim studies for the Gallup Organization, present some of the findings from a Gallup World Poll of more than 9,000 interviews in nine Muslim countries. The results counter many common perceptions and show that "Muslim radicals have more in common with their moderate brethren than is often assumed." For instance, radicals are no more likely to attend religious services regularly than are moderates, and radicals are actually better educated and wealthier than moderates. The poll also showed that both moderates and radicals admire the West, especially its technology, democratic system, and freedom of speech. "Although almost all Muslims believe the West should show more respect for Islam, radicals are more likely to feel that the West threatens and attempts to control their way of life." Moderates would like to build ties with the West through economic development. Policymakers could use this information to develop strategies "to prevent the moderate mainstream from sliding away."

7. Schneider, Cynthia P. CULTURAL DIPLOMACY: HARD TO DEFINE, BUT YOU'D KNOW IT IF YOU SAW IT (The Brown Journal of World Affairs, vol. 13, no. 1, Fall/Winter 2006, pp. 191-203)

The author, former U.S. ambassador to the Netherlands, argues that in the current period of conflict between the U.S. and the Muslim world, cultural diplomacy can be an effective or even the only viable way to communicate between peoples, since creative expression and the emotional appeal of art can help people from different societies find common ground. In the post-Cold War period, the U.S. has only paid "lip service" to cultural and public diplomacy (PD); Schneider quotes Walter Lacquer in arguing that PD has increased in importance, whereas traditional diplomacy and military power "are of limited use" in coping with the challenges of the Information Age.

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

8. Jost, Kenneth UNDERSTANDING ISLAM: IS ISLAM COMPATIBLE WITH WESTERN VALUES? (CQ Researcher, vol. 16, no. 39, November 3, 2006, pp. 913-936)

This in-depth survey of Islam in contemporary society addresses the apparent contradictions between a religion that teaches "piety, virtue and tolerance" and the view that Islam encourages violence more than other religions. While mainstream Muslims assert that Islam is wrongly blamed for the violence and intolerance of a few, critics contend that moderate Muslims have not done enough to oppose terrorism and that Islam is incompatible with Western values. At the same time that radical Islamist ideas are attracting a growing number of young Muslims overseas, some Muslims are advocating a more progressive form of Islam. Using charts, graphs, and other sidebars, the article also provides background information on the history of the faith, Islamist movements, and the "war on terror." In addition, it includes discussions of Muslim identities and religious clashes and misunderstandings between Islam and the West, as well as a chronology, a bibliography, and a list of organizations to contact for more information.

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